PENDING CLAIMS

1.   (Amended)   A method of selectively accessing a network, comprising the steps of:

determining whether an end device has access to said network, wherein said end device is coupled to an indirect interface capable of communicating with one or more access network terminating devices;

confirming the availability of said one or more access network terminating devices,

determining the access capability of each of said one or more access network terminating devices, said access capability comprising one or more predetermined factors;

comparing the determined access capability for each of said one or more access network terminating devices with a preferred access capability being associated with said end device; and

selecting at least one of said one or more access network terminating devices to provide an optimum connection to said network, wherein the access capability of said selected network terminating device is ranked highest according to said predetermined factors.

2   (Amended)   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of configuring said end device according to the access capability of the selected at least one of said one or more access network terminating devices.

3.   (Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined factors of said one or more access network terminating devices comprise cost of access, coverage area, bandwidth delay, priority level and Quality of Service (QoS).

Please cancel Claim 4.

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5.   (Amended)   The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

polling said indirect interface to detect if one or more new access network terminating devices are available to said end device;

determining an access capability for each of the one or more new access network terminating devices if detected; and

comparing said access capability for each of the one or more detected new access network terminating devices with said preferred access capability of said end device to determine whether said detected new access network terminating devices can improve the current connection of said end device to said network.

6.   (Amended)   The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

selecting one of the one or more new access network terminating devices base on the comparison; and

configuring said end device according to the access capability of the selected one of the one or more new access network terminating devices.

7.   (Amended)   A system for providing selective access to a network comprising:

an end device;

at least one access network terminating device for connecting said end device to said network;

an indirect interface coupled to said end device for connecting said end device to said at least one access network terminating device; and

a processor for:

detecting said at least one access network terminating device;

collecting an access capability of said at least one access network terminating device, said access capability comprising one or more predetermined factors;

comparing said predetermined factors of said access capability of said at least one access network terminating device to preferred predetermined factors associated with said end device; and

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selecting at least one preferred access network terminating device according to said comparison.

8. (Amended) The system of claim 7, further comprising means for configuring said end device to match said access capability of said preferred access network terminating device.

9. (Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein said predetermined factors include cost of access, coverage area, and Quality of service (QoS).

10. (Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein said preferred predetermined factors include one or more of: cost of access, coverage area, and QoS.

11. (Amended) The system of claim 8, further comprising means for polling to detect if one or more new access network terminating devices are available to said end device;

means for determining an access capability for each of the one or more new access network terminating devices if detected; and

means for comparing said access capability for each of the one or more detected new access network terminating devices with said preferred access capability of said end device to determine whether said detected new access network terminating devices can improve the current connection to said network.

12. (Amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising means for configuring the end device according to the access capability of the selected one of the one or more new access network terminating devices.

13. (Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein said end device is a cellular telephone.

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14.   The system of claim 13, wherein said cellular telephone includes, as a direct interface, means for communicating over a cellular air interface and includes, as said indirect interface, means for communicating over a Bluetooth air interface.   ✓

15.   (Amended)   An end device comprising:

means for storing access capability for said end device;

means for communicating with at least one access network terminating device over an indirect interface;

means for comparing said stored access capability to an access capability of each of said at least one access network terminating devices; and

selecting a preferred access network terminating device according to said comparison to provide an optimum connection to said network, wherein said access capability comprises predetermined factors and said preferred network terminating device is determined according to said predetermined factors.

16.   The end device of claim 15, wherein said indirect interface is a Bluetooth interface.   ✓

17.   The end device of claim 15, wherein said access network terminating devices provide a communication link with the Internet.

18.   (Amended) The end device of claim 15, further comprising means for communicating over a direct interface.

19.   The end device of claim 18, wherein said end device can communicate simultaneously over said direct interface and said indirect interface.

20.   The end device of claim 18, wherein said direct interface is a cellular interface.

21.   (Amended)   A method for selectively connecting an end device to a network comprising the steps of:

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identifying at least one access network terminating device for connecting said end device to said network;

transferring access capability information between said at least one access network terminating device and said end device;

comparing said transferred access capability information with stored user preferred end device access capability information;

selecting one of said at least one access network terminating devices based on a result of said comparing step; and

connecting to said network using said selected access network terminating device.

22   (Amended)   The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of continuing, after said connecting step, to identify access network terminating devices available to said end device.

23.   (Amended)   The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of: determining if said access capability information associated with a newly identified access network terminating device provides a better match with said stored user preferred access capability information than said selected network terminating device.

24.   (Amended)   The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of selectively changing said connection to said network from said selected access network terminating device to said newly identified access network terminating device based on a result of said determining step.

25.   (Amended)   The method of claim 21, wherein said step of transferring further comprises the step of offering, from said at least one access network terminating device, a foreign agent to said end device.

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